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the nucleus. Sachs suggests a use for the exudation in coniferæ. The pollen is brought to the globule by the winds, and, as the moisture sinks within the vesicle, the pollen grain is carried to the nucleus, and fertilization is effected by actual contact. It would be extremely difficult for the pollen to affect the nucleus in *Thuja*, and some other coniferæ, as in ordinary flowers, in the absence of this liquid exudation.

Individual Variation in Species.—MR. MEEHAN remarked on the prevailing tendency to look on striking variations in species as the result of hybridization. To his mind there were few species that did not exhibit a wide range of individual variation in some particulars, if we had good opportunities to look for them. He exhibited a series of cones taken from different trees of *Pinus rigida*, all gathered in Atlantic County, New Jersey, and pointed out how they each varied. Some double in length of their width, others conoid with a flattish base, others perfectly globular being rounded at both ends. Some had very narrow scales, and some half as broad as long, and again, some reflexed to a wonderful extent in drying, while some with the broad scales would only open to a very slight degree. Some trees would have cones several inches in length and width, while others had cones barely an inch long, and yet with perfect seeds. The cones were in a regularly graded order, the typical *P. rigida* at one end, at the other the cone would scarcely be distinguished from *P. serotina*. The intermediates then taken away from the central one left it to appear as a "hybrid" between the two.

Mr. Meehan said there was evidently a law of nature providing for individual variation. Whether this law of individual variation is distinct from that law of variation which resulted in the evolution of distinct species, might well be a question. It was at least well to recognize the two classes of variation for practical purposes.

Prof. Heilprin, Rev. Dr. McCook and Mr. Redfield discussed points suggested by Mr. Meehan's communication.

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